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July 29, 2009

The Honorable Tom Harkin Chairman U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry SR-328A Russell Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin:

Thank you very much for agreeing to hold additional hearings on climate change legislation. Like many of our colleagues, we believe the House-passed American Clean Energy and Security Act and similar legislation under development in the Senate has serious implications for agriculture, forestry, and rural America. In order to better understand the seriousness of these issues, we believe that as many agriculture, forestry, and rural groups as possible should have the opportunity to testify and share their views with the committee.

It has also been reported that Senate Leadership would like Committees of jurisdiction to complete their work on climate change legislation prior to September 28. As you know, Senate rules give the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry jurisdiction over, among other things, agricultural economics, marketing, production, and prices; soils and soil conservation; forestry; research and extension; and rural development and electrification. It is expected that the Senate's climate change legislation will include provisions affecting these issue areas among others. In order to ensure that the Committee has the opportunity to address these issues, we ask you to schedule a Committee mark up at the appropriate time, prior to consideration of any legislation by the Senate.

We look forward to working with you and our colleagues on the Committee to ensure agriculture, forestry, and rural America's concerns and interests in climate change legislation are addressed. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Page 2

Chuck Grassley

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